Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A communication system for communicating messages between an aircraft and a remote operations center, comprising:

at least one portable control and display unit onboard an aircraft that transmits and receives (1) data communication, (2) voice communication, and (3) video communication;

an Aircraft Communication and Reporting System (ACARS) transceiver located on the aircraft to receive from and transmit to the at least one portable control and display unit (1) data communication, (2) voice communication, and (3) video communication; and

at least one peripheral device located on the aircraft;

wherein a user employs the at least one portable control and display unit to transmit messages to and receive messages from a remote operations center via the ACARS transceiver communicating through a VHF radio onboard the aircraft, the messages comprising the at least one of data communication, voice communication and video communication.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one portable control and display unit is configured to transmit the messages from the aircraft while in flight.

4. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein the messages comprise voice communication.

5. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 4, wherein the at least one portable control and display unit is configured to transmit voice communication from the aircraft while in flight.

6. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein the messages comprise video communication, the video communication comprising at least one of a real-time video stream or single frames of video image.

7. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 6, wherein at least one portable control and display unit is configured to transmit the at least one of a real-time video stream or single frames of video image from the aircraft while in flight.

8. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 6, wherein the real-time video stream includes streaming video and single frames.

9. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one portable control and display unit onboard the aircraft is configured to function as a cellular telephone.

10. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 1, further comprising a SATCOM radio.

11. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 10, wherein the ACARS transceiver switches to the SATCOM radio when the VHF radio is not communicating with the remote operations center.

12. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein the ACARS transceiver transmits and receives a signal over an existing communication network.

13. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one portable control and display unit onboard the aircraft is configured to control at least one of a movement or a function of the peripheral device.

14. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 13, wherein the peripheral device comprises a camera.

15. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 14, wherein the at least one control and display unit onboard the aircraft is configured to control movement of the camera.

16. (Original) The communication system according to claim 13, wherein the peripheral device is located in a cockpit of the aircraft.

17. (Original) The communication system according to claim 13, wherein the peripheral device is located in a cabin of the aircraft.

18. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 1, further comprising at least one panic button located at least one of in or on the aircraft and configured to alert the system of a threat condition.

19. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein the messages are encrypted.

20. (Previously Presented) A method for communicating messages between an aircraft and a remote operations center, comprising employing a portable control and display unit onboard an aircraft to send and receive messages that include (1) data communication, (2) voice communication, and (3) video communication to an ACARS transceiver onboard the aircraft; and

automatically retransmitting messages received from the portable control and display unit via the ACARS transceiver to a remote operations center; and

automatically retransmitting messages received from a remote operations center via the ACARS transceiver to the portable control and display unit.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the portable control and display unit sends messages to and receives messages from another portable control and display unit onboard the aircraft.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the portable control and display unit sends and receives positional information concerning the location of the aircraft while airborne.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the positional information further comprises data regarding other aircraft in the vicinity.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the portable control and display unit sends and receives a sensor condition input from a physical contact sensor on the aircraft.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the physical contact sensor further comprises at least one of a panic button, a fire detector or a door contact in the aircraft.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30, further comprising displaying the streaming video on the portable control and display unit.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, further comprising selecting a single video frame from the streaming video to be transmitted as the video communication to the remote operations center.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising controlling at least one peripheral device located at least one of on or in the aircraft with the portable control and display unit.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 29, wherein at least one peripheral device comprises at least one video camera, the method further comprising

obtaining the video communication from at least one video camera peripheral device, wherein the video communication comprises a streaming video.

31. (Currently Amended) A communication system for communicating messages between an aircraft and a remote operations center, comprising:

at least one portable control and display unit onboard an aircraft that transmits and receives (1) data communication, (2) voice communication, and (3) video communication;

an Aircraft Communication and Reporting System (ACARS) transceiver located on the aircraft to receive from and transmit to the at least one portable control and display unit (1) data communication, (2) voice communication, and (3) video communication; and

at least one peripheral device located on the aircraft,

wherein a user employs the at least one portable control and display unit to transmit messages to and receive messages from a remote operations center via the ACARS transceiver communicating through a VHF radio onboard the aircraft, the messages comprising the at least one of data communication, voice communication and video communication,

wherein the at least one portable control and display unit is configured to transmit a vehicle position at a programmed interval which can only be turned off by encrypted command from a remote site.

32. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating messages between an aircraft and a remote operations center, comprising:

employing a portable control and display unit onboard an aircraft to send and receive messages that include (1) data communication, (2) voice communication, and (3) video communication to an ACARS transceiver onboard the aircraft,

wherein the portable control and display unit sends and receives positional information concerning the location of the aircraft while airborne,

wherein the at least one portable control and display unit transmits a vehicle position at a programmed interval which can only be turned off by encrypted command from a remote site;

automatically retransmitting messages received from the portable control and display unit via the ACARS transceiver to a remote operations center; and

automatically retransmitting messages received from a remote operations center via the ACARS transceiver to the portable control and display unit.

33. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 1, further comprising an iridium satellite modem.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the ACARS transceiver transmits and receives an signal by a iridium satellite modem.